

L. L. King

Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A n n u a l R e p o r t
o f t h e
M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h
1 9 5 7

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed July, 1957.)

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.
All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

The Council of the Urban District of Woodhall Spa

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1957.

As you will be aware, no great changes have occurred in the Spa during the year under review and the opportunity is taken to review progress over longer periods where this can show changes not apparent from year to year.

In this connection, whilst a year to year comparison of the incidence of whooping cough would mean little, a comparison of this disease, against which we have for the past few years, extensively used an effective vaccine, with measles which remains substantially unchecked, shows that a really valuable degree of protection is given by immunizing infants.

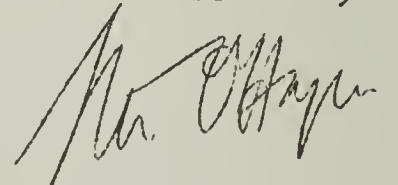
It may be well to look back and recall what has been done to improve the health of the people and records are readily available to allow comparisons over the past twelve years. Woodhall Spa is unusual in that it is a communal entity, in touch with neighbouring centres of population (and hence infection) and yet almost wholly cared for by one practice of doctors whose views upon immunization are forthright and effective,

In Woodhall, there is a close relation between the number of babies born each year and the numbers vaccinated and immunized and so a field-study is provided for the observation of whooping cough - against which the Woodhall children have been well protected, starting in 1954.

It will be remembered that previously, diphtheria has been virtually abolished or, more accurately, held at bay since the massive immunization campaign carried out by Dr. Neill with such vigour.

In the present campaign against poliomyelitis, we must resign ourselves to no dramatic decline in the disease, for only four cases have been notified in the past 18 years. Similarly with tetanus, also a rare disease, tragically fatal but so easily prevented with no more injections than are already used for whooping cough and diphtheria prevention.

I am, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2190
Density of Population:	1.169
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	629
Houses	577
Flats	48
Temporary Dwellings, Caravans etc.	4
Rateable Value of Urban District:	£21,982
Sum Represented by Penny Rate:	£83. 12. 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

Legitimate

Male	12
Female	8
	<u>20</u>

Illegitimate

Male	1
Female	0
	<u>1</u>

Crude live birth rate per thousand
estimated population

9.15

Standardized live birth rate per
thousand estimated population

10.8

Live birth rate, England & Wales

16.1

There were 2 still-births during the year
and one death of a legitimately born infant under one year of age.

1957, 6 Births registered in Woodhall.

DEATHS

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Male	25	23
Female	23	29
	<u>48</u>	<u>52</u>
Crude death rate per thousand estimated population	22.1	23.7
Standardized death rate per thousand estimated population	14.0	15.4
Death Rate, England and Wales per thousand estimated population	11.7	11.5

Deaths	0 - 1.	55 - 64.	65 - 74.	75 and over.
	1.	4.	14.	31.

Causes of death under 75 years.

Pneumonia	1 at 6 months.
Tuberculosis of Spine	1
Diss. Sclerosis	1
Peptic Ulcer	1
Road Accident	1
Cancer	3
Rheumatoid Arthritis	1
Bronchitis	1
Vascular Disease	8

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list.

<u>Short List No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	0	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	1	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	6	2	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	3	8	11
18.	Coronary disease,,angina	4	1	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	1	7	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	1	1	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	2	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	1
34.	All other accidents	0	1	1
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	0	0	0
		<u>23</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>52</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious diseases during the year were as follows:-

Pneumonia	Primary	7
"	Influenzal	3
Scarlet Fever		1
Erysipelas		1
Poliomyelitis		2
Measles		14
Whooping Cough		1

Vaccination and Immunization.

The accompanying table shows the rate of protection of the children, together with evidence of the completeness of the change-over to combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Initial Diphtheria	20	0	0	0
Initial Whooping Cough	27	4	0	0
Combined vaccine	2	23	23	25
Smallpox - Vaccinations	15	13	20	18
Revaccinations	4	13	5	6
Births during the year	29	31	24	20
" " preceeding year	18	29	31	24

The figures for births in each preceeding and current year give some idea of the number of children at the optimum age for vaccination and immunization, but it would be fallacious to attempt to present "percentage protected" on so small a total of eligibles.

Smallpox Vaccination has been increasingly adopted in recent years and the occasional outbreak from sea - ports etc. keeps public opinion alive.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization.

This has become entirely a combined procedure and for preference carried out in the winter or spring, outside the "polio" season.

Active immunization against tetanus can also be given at the same time, or separately, and is to be advised in an agricultural area where any dirty wound is potentially infected.

Recent work emphasizes that in this as in so much else, prevention is better than hoping for a cure.

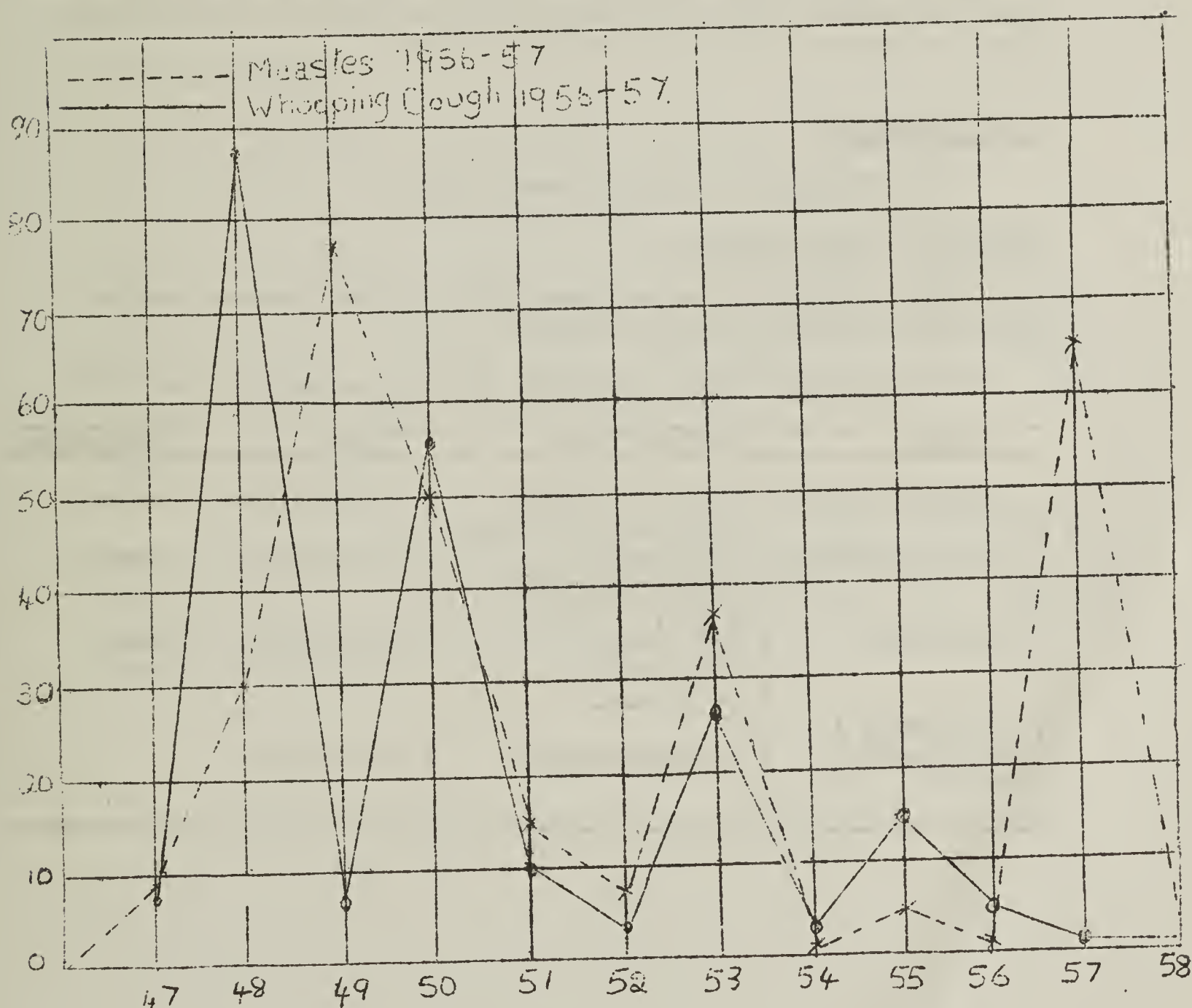
A graph gives the incidence of measles (uncontrolled) and whooping cough against which immunization is available and, despite the relatively small numbers, strongly suggest the preventive value of whooping cough vaccine.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1957 the demand for vaccination became vastly more intense, with the admission to eligibility of additional age groups

After the initial hesitation, so normal to observe, the public accepted, in general, the Canadian salk vaccine whilst British resouces remained so inadequate. Later the Canadian supply was further augmented by a very large consignment (in 1958) from the U.S.A. and this has now been widely used.

In future years, when substantially all the existing child population has been vaccinated and only new arrivals require vaccinating, it will probably be practical and economic to use British vaccine entirely.



Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination of adolescents was commenced in 1957 and a considerable proportion of the parents of eligible children agreed to the preliminary tuberculin testing and subsequent vaccination where necessary.

In so far as Woodhall Spa was concerned, this work was done either at Gartree Secondary School or Horncastle Grammar School.

No arrangements have been made for any 13 year old children who live in the area but do not attend these schools.

The behaviour of the vaccination site is similar to that of smallpox vaccination, but is much less irritating, slower to develop and to heal but, in general, does not interfere in any way with the normal life of the child and ends with a pale pink scar about a quarter of an inch or less across.

Food Poisoning:

No outbreak was reported during 1957.

National Health Service.

This remains unchanged from 1955, as also are the health services of Lindsey County Council.

The following table of Clinics is also unchanged from 1955:-

Clinic	Day and Time	Place	Attendance
Infant Welfare	2nd & 4th week Wednesday at 10a.m.	Woodhall Spa	Casual
Infant Welfare	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday at 2 p.m.	Horncastle	Casual
Ante-Natal	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday at 10 a.m.	Horncastle	Casual
Ophthalmic } Orthopaedic } Dental }	By appointment	Horncastle	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply:

In general, no difficulties have been encountered during the year apart from occasional comments on lack of sparkle and, rarely, an earthy taste or smell.

The lack of sparkle is a natural property of shallow - source water, but the earthy taste could be removed by adjustment of chlorination rate.

Since the end of 1957, however, a marked deterioration of palatability was noticed and was traced to the large sand filter which was replaced by the Air Ministry well pending replacement of the filtering medium and the trouble is now unlikely to recur.

Sewage Disposal.

The extensions to the plant have come into operation without more than a common share of troubles and effluent from the works now appears more satisfactory. The ditch into which it discharges, however, is very stagnant and would be foul even without the effluent. However this is not wholly disadvantageous, for it is probably unattractive to children who might otherwise paddle in or fish in a water which appeared safe but which, inoffensive as it is, is as potentially dangerous as crude sewage. Chlorination of the effluent would be required if it was discharged where bathing could take place but the long passage through dykes obviates this need.

Refuse Collection

No alteration to the service has been made. Decomposable and pest-attracting refuse is still a very serious nuisance if not actually a danger and every effort must be made to persuade householders to burn everything that can be burnt. Those who are gardeners doubtless waste very little vegetable or animal waste which can be of value on the land.

The Swimming Pool.

There is good reason to believe that the Council's efforts toward the constant improvement of the facilities in Jubilee Park are bearing fruit in increased use by both residents and visitors.

No difficulties arose during the year but the possibility of extending the facilities is being considered. In so doing, it is essential to bear in mind that any increase in the size of the pool, or any continued increase in use will require further purification plant.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Only two technical contraventions were noted during the year and were remedied without resort to formal action - these were, in fact, the two cases reported as un-remedied at the end of 1956 and, of course were dealt with quite soon.

Housing:

Again I have to report that no scheme of Council House building is in hand or contemplated.

There has been a slight increase in local interest in Housing Improvement Grants and a total of five properties were subject to grant at the year's end.

The work of house inspection is slightly increased above last years level but is never likely to be as high as elsewhere as owner - occupiers form a larger proportion of the population and require less supervision than tenanted property.

Overcrowding:

There as still been no action in regard to the two overcrowded families referred to in last years report. Whilst one would not often advise the erection of larger - than - normal houses for exceptional families, the acquisition of suitable property for modification to suit the need is a possible solution.

Caravans:

The proximity of the Airfield has resulted in the Council adopting a broader attitude to residential vans than some other authorities. That this has been beneficial both to Woodhall and to our service residents cannot be contested. The existing sites have not been full recently, but remains available as feasible accommodation.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR.

HOUSING:

Total number of houses erected during the year:-

(1) by local authority	-
(2) by other local authorities	-
(3) by other bodies or persons	3

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:-

(i) number of houses scheduled for demolition but retained by formal action under Sec.2,3,4 or 6.	Nil.
(ii) number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	24
(b) number of inspections made for the purpose	37

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

4

(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

-

(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts:-

-

(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-

-

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a) (1) number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year

-

(2) number of persons concerned in such cases

-

(b) (1) number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year

2

(2) number of families dwelling therein

2

(3) number of persons dwelling therein

18

Housing Act, 1949

number of houses for which applications for grants have been received

2

number of houses subject to grant

2

number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of a grant aid by the Ministry

-

Moveable dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

number of site licences

2

number of individual licences

1

total number of caravans permitted under licences

13

number of inspections during the year - sites

10

dwellings

1

number of contraventions remedied

1

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

number in district	2
number of inspections	8
number of contraventions	-
defects remedied	-

Milk Supplies

number of distributors on register	
Sterilized	3
Pasteurised	3
T.T.	3
N/D	1
number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	-
number of inspections of dairy premises	-
contraventions remedied	-

Ice Cream

number of manufacturers on register	2
number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	9
number of inspections of premises made	14
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-
number of samples taken - Grade I	2
other grades	-

Meat Products

number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
number of inspections made	2
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-

Other food premises

number of inspections made	9
number of contraventions found	2
contraventions remedied	2

Slaughterhouses

number licenced - abattoir type	-
private (individual)	-
number operated by local authority	-

UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in
whole or in part -

Other condemned foods

48lbs. of Corned Beef.

Method of Disposal - Incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	1
No. of houses with pail closets in district	9
No. of houses with water closets in district	626
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

No. of Cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed etc.	1
No. of Cesspools and Septic tanks abolished	-

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been
made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements
improved:-

Works in progress to improve and provide new
sewers in Stixwould Road Park View area.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made
of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements
improved

Work in progress to improve ejectors and Sewage
Works, including provision of sludge drying beds, humus
tanks and percolating filter.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or
treatment works for public health reasons :-
No.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

No. of houses supplied from public mains - in house	651
- standpipe	5
No. of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
No. of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons	No
No. of samples taken for chemical examination	0
No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination:- Class I - 8; Class II - 1; Class III - 0.	

Swimming Pools

Number of public swimming pools in operation	1
number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1
number of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination	-
number of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination - satisfactory	-
unsatisfactory	-

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

number of premises in district	-
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Knackers Yards

number licenced	-
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Shops Act, 1950

number of shops inspected	22
contraventions remedied	-

Disinfection and disinfection

rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis	6
(b) tuberculosis	-
number of premises subject to disinfection	1

Refuse collection and disposal

number of premises from which refuse is collected	664
frequency of collection	7 - 10 days
method of disposal	controlled tipping
is this satisfactory?	Yes
is collection by L.A. or contract	L.A.

Nuisances

total number of nuisances during the year	
(1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	18
(2) Reported to the Council	Statutory notice issued -
"	" not issued-

Details of nuisances abated

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory notice
Refuse	3	-
Foul ditches, ponds & Stagnant water	7	-
Drainage	5	-
Poultry & Animals	-	-
Dangerous premises	-	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	3	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of rodent operatives employed	1 - part time
No. of premises treated - dwelling houses	15
other premises	2
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	0

Atmospheric pollution

No. of visits	0
No. of nuisances found	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

PART I of the Act - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	6	-	-
ii. factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	9	21	-	-
iii. other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	10	27	1	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-		
Insufficient	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-
not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act	2	1
TOTAL	2	1

